

THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

J.P. and S.P (Foster Parents),
Appellants,

vs.

State of Alaska, DHSS, G.C.
(Mother), W.F. (Father), J.F (Child)
and Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak
Appellees.

Supreme Court No. **S-18107**

Trial Court Case No. **3AN-17-00032CN**

APPELLANT'S NOTICE TO COURT AND TO PARTIES

On July 9, 2021, this Court requested briefing on why J.P. and S.P. have standing as the long-term foster parents of J.F. and why they should have standing to appeal a matter of public interest involving J.F. who up until this summer was an Alaska Native foster child living with the same foster family for over four years, since just after his birth, but was abruptly and forcibly removed out of state by order of a tribal court which was not the child's tribe at the time of the removal. J.P. and S.P. were forced to deliver J.F. to the Anchorage Police Department and to hand the 4-year-old child over to strangers within 24 hours so he could be placed on a red eye flight out of Alaska to New Mexico. Although the case was expedited by this Court for purposes of review, there has been no resolution for several months. J.P. and S.P. have attempted each day since the day J.F. was removed from their home to keep in contact with the now 5-year-old child, who has since been removed a second time, from New Mexico to Texas.

Because of the passage of time, J.P. and S.P. feel it is necessary to update the Court on the events since this case has been pending review.

Since the day J.F. was removed, J.P. and S.P. have attempted to visit the child in person but the offer was refused. J.P. and S.P. have also attempted to contact the child by video chat. While this contact had been mildly successful, in the last call J.F. indicated that he missed his foster sister. On December 3, 2021, and just before the child's 5th birthday on December 18, J.P. and S.P. were informed in a text message that they would no longer be permitted to have any further contact with J.F. This direction came through Monique Lewis (See, Exhibit A) who is believed to be the caretaker of the child in Texas. The text message stated that this "no contact" was the result of an alleged "hearing" before an unnamed court at an unnamed time. No notice of this alleged hearing was ever given to J.P. and S.P. and they know nothing about it except that Ms. Lewis claims that it took place.

Other Alaska Native members of J.F.'s family, residing in Alaska, have similarly been prevented from contacting the child. This action has been contrary to prior discussions between the parties and the recommendations of the expert. (See, Exhibit B). The Alaska Native relatives, J.F.'s maternal grandparents and his cousins residing in Alaska, are very concerned by what is taking place.

There is simply no positive reason for cutting off communication with J.F. on his 5th birthday and Christmas when all the child's previous birthdays and Christmas's over his short lifetime have been spent with J.P. and S.P. and with his Anchorage, Alaska Native grandparents and cousins. The child is being seriously harmed by what has

taken place and is taking place. This Court needs to be aware of what is happening while this matter is pending review, so that it can take these matters into account in making its decision.

DATED this 29th day of December 2021.

ANNE R. HELZER

Attorney for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

By

/s/ Anne R. Helzer

ABA #0911054